

TOTANUS CALIDRIS (L.).

The Redshank was identified along the margins of the *étangs* bordering the Mediterranean.

LARUS CACHINNANS, Pall.

On the *étangs* and the Mediterranean coast.

LARUS FUSCUS, L.

An immature example examined in the flesh at Banyuls.

PUFFINUS YELKOUAN, Acerbi.

At Banyuls an individual of this representative of our Manx Shearwater was handled in the flesh.

VIII.—*Notes on Birds observed on the Yenisei River, Siberia, in 1895.* By H. LEYBORNE POPHAM.

I LEFT England on March 8th, 1895, with the object of adding something, if possible, to what is known of the birds frequenting the mighty Yenisei River. I was accompanied by Mr. C. Boyce Hill, and by the mate of my yacht (McGarry) as bird-skinner. In spite of a letter from the Russian Embassy in London, our guns were taken away at the frontier, and did not reach Moscow till ten days later. This delay almost proved fatal to our chance of reaching Yeniseisk by sledge, as when we arrived at the end of the railway at Omsk, on March 28th, the snow had almost disappeared. However, after dragging the sledges sometimes through water and sometimes over the bare ground, with at times as many as five horses to each sledge, we eventually, on April 15th, arrived, in the relics of our "pavoskas," at Yeniseisk. Here we were most hospitably entertained by the mayor of the town, Mr. Vostrotine, for seven weeks, waiting for the break-up of the ice and the departure of the first trading steamer down the river. We occupied our time in the purchase and fitting-out of a "lodka," a sort of flat-bottomed house-boat, and in collecting a few specimens of the birds as they arrived from the south. On June 7th we tied our boat on behind a long string of barges, and were

off down stream, and for a month were hard at work collecting specimens of birds and eggs in every place at which our steamer stopped for fuel, skinning birds and blowing eggs while under way, and sleeping whenever a chance occurred. On the fifteenth day of our voyage the sun ceased to set and remained above the horizon for the next seven weeks, so that we were able to make the best use of our time whenever stopping at any "village," which sometimes consisted of only two or three huts. It often happened that we only got about two hours ashore at what appeared to be a particularly good spot for birds, but we had to take our chance of this; however, I think, on the whole, we were fairly lucky. But we failed in the Warblers—a class that neither of us was well up in—and I believe we often overlooked a very interesting small Warbler when in pursuit of something larger and more attractive to us. We also made a mistake in not forming a larger collection during the migration at Yeniseisk, instead of husbanding our ammunition for our voyage down the river. Its course throughout being northerly, we were constantly changing our latitude, meeting new species and leaving others behind at every stoppage. Thus some birds that we might easily have obtained at Yeniseisk we never met with again further down. We reached Golchika on July 7th in tow of our steamer, this being the last village on the river, and had to spend two somewhat dreary months amongst millions of mosquitoes in our small craft, awaiting the arrival of the expedition from England sent out by my brother through the Kara Sea. The monotony of this time was relieved only by ten very pleasant days spent on board the Russian surveying steamer 'Oftsin,' the officers of which very kindly invited us to accompany them on an expedition to set up a beacon on Cape Matte Sale. Ice prevented us from carrying out this object, but though we were of course too late for eggs, we were enabled to add several good species to our list, the young in down of Bewick's Swan being one of the most interesting. The s.s. 'Lorna Doone' arrived from England on September 13th accompanied by a river steamer, the 'Barnaoul,' and

nine days later we started homeward on what turned out to be a rather adventurous voyage. Capt. Wiggins, who had brought out the two ships, took nearly all the coal and stores with him up the river, leaving us with a supply of about ten days' fuel to reach Vardö. Things went well till the fourth day out, when we fell in with vast quantities of ice, through which we forced our way for five days. We then got set fast in the ice at the eastern entrance of the Ugor Straits, having broken both blades of the propeller and used up every available plank for the furnaces; even the hen-coop had gone up the funnel. The vessel drove steadily away with the ice in a north-easterly direction till October 4th, when I decided it was time to seek assistance from the natives in the form of food and clothing. I therefore left the ship with three of the crew and a Russian, who had come on board when we were near the entrance of the Straits, and struck out for the land, which could now just be made out from aloft, hauling a boat with us over the ice. After suffering considerably from the cold and exposure in our European clothes during a gale of wind and snowstorm we reached a native "choom" on the evening of the second day, and travelled home with the natives *viâ* the Pechora and Mezen. This same gale of wind broke up the ice sufficiently to release the 'Lorna Doone,' and she eventually reached England in safety, happily not requiring the supply of reindeer meat and skins that we had gone in search of.

I now give my notes on the birds that we met with on the Yenisei.

†1. *TURDUS ILIACUS*. Redwing.

Very numerous in the forest, often nesting among the large colonies of Fieldfares, but nearly always at a lower elevation.

2. *TURDUS PILARIS*. Fieldfare.

The commonest of all the forest-birds, colonies of several hundreds inhabiting the willows on nearly all the islands; we could have almost loaded our boat with their eggs if we had felt inclined.

3. *TURDUS FUSCATUS*. Dusky Thrush.

(*T. dubius*, Dresser, B. Europe, ii. pl. 7, p. 63.)

Wishing one day to obtain a thoroughly authentic clutch of Redwings' eggs, I shot the parent bird, and was surprised to find it was not an ordinary Redwing as I had thought, but a specimen of *T. fuscatus*. I secured the two eggs from the nest, which was exactly like a Fieldfare's, with a lining of mud and a final lining of dry grass. We afterwards obtained several more nests with eggs belonging to the Dusky Thrush, all being of necessity placed rather low down, but one was quite on the ground between the stems of a willow. This species extended further north than either of the preceding, even beyond the limit of the forest. The eggs are mostly of the Redwing type, and measure from 1.01 to 1.1 inch in length and .8 in breadth. One clutch of six eggs was more clearly spotted than the others.

4. *TURDUS OBSCURUS*. Pale Thrush.

We were unfortunate in obtaining only one specimen of this Thrush on the Kamina Tungoska River, and still more so in not finding any eggs.

5. *TURDUS SIBIRICUS*. Siberian Thrush.

This handsome bird was often to be seen perched on the top of a tree, whistling a few rich notes, but owing to its extreme wariness it was difficult to approach within shot, and it was only by careful stalking that we managed to obtain three skins, all of males. It was most numerous around Toorukhansk (lat. 66° N.). We got several nests supposed to belong to this species, but we were never able to thoroughly identify the eggs further than seeing the birds in the immediate vicinity of the nest. These eggs differ very much from those of *T. dubius*, having a paler blue ground-colour and more distinct spots of reddish brown. They measure 1.16 in. by .82 in.

6. *SAXICOLA CENANTHE*. Common Wheatear.

Fairly numerous; one was obtained at Yeniscisk and two at Golchika.

7. PRATINCOLA MAURA. Eastern Stonechat.

A male was shot about the middle of May at Yeniseisk, but they were not seen afterwards.

8. CYANECULA SUECICA. Red-spotted Bluethroat.

Common. A few were seen near the end of August at Golchika. Several well-concealed nests were found in the forest.

9. CALLIOPE CAMTSCHATKENSIS. Ruby-throated Warbler.

It seemed a cruel thing to put an abrupt end to a beautiful song proceeding from this lovely little Warbler, which was singing away lustily from the top of a willow. This was the only one I saw.

10. SYLVIA AFFINIS. Siberian Lesser Whitethroat.

Two nests, near Yeniseisk, were discovered with one and five eggs respectively, both placed low down in a small bush and lined with hair; the hen bird was shot from the nest containing five eggs.

11. PHYLLOSCOPUS TRISTIS. Siberian Chiffchaff.

I often heard these Chiffchaffs in the forest. I saw one come out of its domed nest and shot it, but was disappointed to find the nest empty, though lined with feathers all ready for the eggs.

12. PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS. Willow-Warbler.

Six eggs were taken from the only nest found, which was placed on the ground at the foot of a very small bush and full of white feathers.

13. ACROCEPHALUS SCHENOBENUS. Sedge-Warbler.

One, a male, was shot, but no eggs were obtained.

14. ACCENTOR MONTANELLUS. Mountain-Accentor.

Not uncommon in the forest, as we obtained six nests containing in all 22 eggs, varying from one to six eggs in each nest. The eggs cannot be distinguished from those of the common Hedge-Sparrow (*A. modularis*), the song also being very similar. The nest was sometimes placed as high as eight feet from the ground in the fork of a willow, and at others quite low down in the stump of a

dead tree, and composed of small twigs and dry grass lined with moss and a few hairs. We met with this bird between the latitudes 66° and 69° N.

15. *PARUS MAJOR*. Great Tit.

On our sledge journey to Yeniseisk we often saw Great Tits at the villages, also at Omsk and Yeniseisk.

16. *MOTACILLA ALBA*. White Wagtail.

This was one of the first of the migrants to arrive at Yeniseisk, and one of the last birds seen at Khabarova in the Ugor Straits. We took seven eggs from a nest made in the cabin of a boat hauled up on the shore at Yeniseisk. We met with it as far down as Golchika, but in far less numbers than the following.

17. *MOTACILLA CITREOLA*. Yellow-headed Wagtail.

Very common all the way down the river. A large flock made their first appearance at Yeniseisk on May 19th, and we were constantly coming across their nests afterwards.

18. *MOTACILLA MELANOPE*. Grey Wagtail.

On May 18th three appeared at Yeniseisk, and later on I secured a specimen there, but that is all we saw of them.

19. *ANTHUS GUSTAVI*. Pechora Pipit.

I shot a Pipit, then unknown to me, on June 20th, which proved to be the Pechora Pipit.

+20. *ANTHUS CERVINUS*. Red-throated Pipit.

Quite the commonest bird on the tundra, above the limit of trees. Many clutches of eggs were taken. The eggs show considerable variation, one in particular being of quite a dark coffee-colour.

21. *ANTHUS TRIVIALIS*. Tree-Pipit.

A solitary example was obtained at Yeniseisk.

22. *ORIOLEUS GALBULA*. Golden Oriole.

A pair were seen in the forest near Yeniseisk, and a specimen was secured from a small flock of these brilliant birds a couple of days afterwards.

†23. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA*. Swallow.

Swallows arrived at Yeniseisk on May 30th, but did not appear to extend further down the river.

24. *CHELIDON LAGOPODA*. Siberian Martin.

All the many church-towers in Yeniseisk were covered with old Martins' nests, to which the birds returned on May 18th. We caught several of these birds on their nests under the eaves of the houses in the villages. The upper tail-coverts were in all cases pure white. We were too early for eggs, as we left the birds all behind us after passing Toorukhansk.

‡25. *COTILE RIPARIA*. Sand-Martin.

The banks of the river at Yeniseisk were riddled with the holes of these birds. The first one I saw was on May 21st.

26. *FRINGILLA MONTIFRINGILLA*. Brambling.

Fairly numerous, though two nests were all we came across, with six and seven eggs in each.

27. *LINOTA LINARIA*. Mealy Redpoll.

Common. Several nests were found.

28. *LINOTA EXILIPES*. Coues's Redpoll.

The first specimens obtained at Yeniseisk were three out of a flock of about fifty of these Redpolls. I was unaware at the time that the other Redpolls and nests found later on might have belonged to *L. exilipes* and not to *L. linaria*. I shot only one from its nest, and this one turned out to be *L. linaria*, so I rather hastily concluded that all were; but as Mr. Henry J. Pearson tells us the eggs are indistinguishable, I have no proof that Coues's Redpoll nests on the Yenisei.

29. *CARPODACUS ERYTHRINUS*. Scarlet Grosbeak.

Only one was seen and secured at Toorukhansk.

30. *PINICOLA ENUCLEATOR*. Pine Grosbeak.

I pursued one near Yeniseisk for some time but failed to get it.

31. *EMBERIZA AUREOLA*. Yellow-breasted Bunting.

These birds appeared in flocks at Yeniseisk on June 1st, and were never met with again.

32. *EMBERIZA PUSILLA*. Little Bunting.

We obtained a nice series of the beautiful eggs of this Bunting, which show great variation in size, ground-colour, and markings. The birds were by no means uncommon, and were remarkably tame at their nests, returning to their eggs at once if we withdrew a few yards from the spot, so that there was never any difficulty in satisfactorily identifying their eggs after we had shot one or two birds to make certain. Six nests were discovered, the greatest number of eggs in one nest being five.

33. *EMBERIZA SCHENICLUS*. Reed-Bunting.

Locally common. One nest was on the top of a dead stump of a tree about 4 ft. high. All the others were on the ground.

34. *CALCARIUS LAPONICUS*. Lapland Bunting.

Shared the nesting-grounds of the Red-throated Pipit, and almost rivalled its reputation of being the commonest bird on the tundra. These Buntings passed through Yeniseisk on migration, but did not appear again till we were clear of the limit of trees. Their nests can easily be distinguished from the Pipits' by the lining of feathers.

35. *PLECTROPHENAX NIVALIS*. Snow-Bunting.

Not observed on the river between Yeniseisk and Golchika, where they were busy feeding their young when we arrived.

36. *OTOCORYS ALPESTRIS*. Shore-Lark.

We saw the first Shore-Lark in lat. 70° N., but did not get any eggs.

37. *STURNUS VULGARIS*. Starling.

Arrived very early at Yeniseisk.

38. *PICA RUSTICA*. Magpie.

Our first nest was a Magpie's, before the snow was off the ground.

39. *CORVUS CORONE*. Carrion-Crow.

Numerous about the town of Yeniseisk.

40. *CORVUS CORNIX*. Hooded Crow.

It was interesting to observe on our sledge journey from Omsk to Yeniseisk how the Hooded Crow was gradually replaced by the Carrion-Crow as we proceeded east, with a space, somewhat beyond Tomsk, where the two overlap one another and hybrids predominate. The Grey Crow was quite scarce at Yeniseisk compared with *C. corone*.

41. *CORVUS FRUGILEGUS*. Rook.

Rooks had reached Omsk before the end of March.

42. *CAPRIMULGUS EUROPÆUS*. Nightjar.

C. B. Hill shot one at Yeniseisk.

43. *PICUS MAJOR*. Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Only one was obtained near Yeniseisk.

44. *PICUS PIPRA*. Siberian Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

A single specimen secured on our third day's journey down the river was the only one seen.

45. *PICOIDES TRIDACTYLUS*. Three-toed Woodpecker.

Again only a solitary example was shot by Hill near Toorukhansk.

46. *CUCULUS CANORUS*. Cuckoo.

Seebohm, in his 'Siberia in Asia,' tells us that he secured a Cuckoo making a sound not unlike the cry of the Hoopoe, and found it to be the Himalayan Cuckoo (*Cuculus himalayanus*). We often heard Cuckoos uttering the sound that he describes, and shot two, which were pronounced by Mr. H. E. Dresser (who has been kind enough to examine the skins we brought back) to be *C. canorus*. The forest round Yeniseisk was full of Cuckoos, but we soon left them behind us; in fact I find no mention of them in my notes further north.

47. *ASIO OTUS*. Long-eared Owl.

While waiting for Ducks at flight-time, two of these Owls flew round, making a strange noise by striking their wings together. We obtained one nest of six eggs.

48. *ASIO ACCIPITRINUS*. Short-eared Owl.

This was the commonest Owl; we found two of its nests.

+49. *NYCTEA SCANDIACA*. Snowy Owl.

We did not see so many Snowy Owls as we expected, considering there was a large supply of lemmings on the tundra. There was nothing like the number that I saw on Waigatz Island last year. One day, near Golchika, we saw two, and after a careful stalk we each shot one, but could not find any signs of a nest, though, from the "incubation spot" on the hen bird, they had evidently bred.

50. *CIRCUS ÆRUGINOSUS*. Marsh-Harrier.

A fine bird passed close to us near Yeniseisk, and we several times saw Harriers that we concluded were *C. æruginosus*.

51. *BUTEO DESERTORUM*. African Buzzard.

One nest was found near Yeniseisk, and the male bird shot.

+52. *BUTEO LAGOPUS*. Rough-legged Buzzard.

The commonest of the large birds of prey beyond the forest; their nests, of which we found six, containing from four to six eggs in each, were always easily accessible on the banks of the river.

53. *MILVUS MIGRANS*. Black Kite.

In the forest, when nearing Yeniseisk, a large fork-tailed bird flew over us, which we concluded was a Black Kite, but we saw none on the river.

54. *FALCO PEREGRINUS*. Peregrine.

Almost as common as the Rough-legged Buzzard on the lower parts of the river. All the nests were reached without any difficulty owing to the character of the country: they had merely chosen the steepest of the cliffs on the river-banks. I kept a pair of young ones for some weeks; the male became very tame, but the female remained fierce, till both were released, owing to the difficulty of supplying them with fresh food.

55. *FALCO SUBBUTEO*. Hobby.

Three were shot at Yeniseisk, but no eggs found.

+ 56. *FALCO ÆSALON*. Merlin.

One was shot from the ship at Golchika in the autumn. I shot several from our ship while at anchor in the Ugor Straits in the summer of 1894.

57. *FALCO VESPERTINUS*. Red-legged Falcon.

Quite a colony of these pretty little Falcons was nesting near Yeniseisk.

+ 58. *FALCO TINNUNCULUS*. Kestrel.

I shot one at Yeniseisk, thinking it might be the Lesser Kestrel.

59. *BOTAURUS STELLARIS*. Bittern.

A man gave me a freshly-killed Bittern at Yeniseisk, but we did not see live examples ourselves.

+ 60. *ANSER SEGETUM*. Bean-Goose.

The most numerous of the Geese. The first seen were on May 6th, migrating north. One nest contained as many as six eggs, another five.

+ 61. *ANSER ALBIFRONS*. White-fronted Goose.

Not nearly so plentiful in this country as the preceding. Out of ten captured on Aug. 15th while in moult, three were White-fronted, and out of eighteen procured in the same way a few days later only two proved to be *A. albifrons*. We brought back only three eggs and one gosling in down. Seebohm, in his 'Siberia in Asia,' only mentions the Lesser White-fronted Goose on the Yenisei.

+ 62. *BERNICLA BRENTA*. Brent Goose.

Not observed south of lat. 72° N., where young in down were obtained.

63. *BERNICLA RUFICOLLIS*. Red-breasted Goose.

The eggs of this Goose formed one of our chief prizes. Four nests were found with seven, seven, eight, and nine eggs (of a creamy-white colour) in each respectively. From

all the nests the female was shot. All the nests were placed at the foot of a cliff occupied by either a Peregrine or a Rough-legged Buzzard (possibly for protection from foxes), and well supplied with down.

Measurement of eggs: 2.79 in. by 1.93 in.

64. *CYGNUS BEWICKI*. Bewick's Swan.

So far as we were able to ascertain, all the Swans on the river were of this species. Although we saw at times many hundreds of Swans on our passage down the river, we never succeeded in shooting one or in finding a nest, but after a long and exciting chase I secured three young Bewick's Swans in down in about 72° N. lat. I was unable to bring down the old birds, having only a 28-bore gun loaded with half charges of small shot.

+65. *ANAS BOSCAS*. Mallard.

Rare. Only one was shot (at Yeniseisk).

+66. *QUERQUEDULA CRECCA*. Teal.

Fairly numerous up to 66° N. Two nests were found.

67. *QUERQUEDULA CIRCIA*. Garganey.

Four or five pitched among my wooden decoys one evening while fighting at Yeniseisk, and I secured a specimen.

±68. *DAFILA ACUTA*. Pintail.

Common all the way down the river, and nesting on the banks.

‡69. *MARECA PENELOPE*. Wigeon.

This was the most numerous of the Ducks on the river, but did not appear to extend so far north as *D. acuta*. Many nests of it were found.

‡70. *FULIGULA MARILA*. Scaup.

Several were observed, and a few nests found; one of these containing six eggs, of which some were tinged with buff and the others with green.

71. *FULIGULA CRISTATA*. Tufted Duck.

Hill shot one male of this species near Toorukhansk.

‡72. CLANGULA GLAUCION. Goldeneye.

Locally common. One egg taken out of a specimen.

73. HARELDA GLACIALIS. Long-tailed Duck.

This Duck became very numerous after we had left the forest.

74. SOMATERIA MOLLISSIMA. Eider.

Only seen in the very lowest parts of the river that we visited, and then not in great numbers. No eggs were obtained.

+75. SOMATERIA SPECTABILIS. King-Eider.

One male was shot by Hill at Golchika, and a nest, supposed to belong to this species, was found, but no eggs were in it when discovered, and it was subsequently deserted.

76. CEDEMIA NIGRA. Scoter.

Common at Toorukhansk. Eggs were obtained by navigating a piece of ice to an island in a lake.

77. CEDEMIA FUSCA. Velvet Scoter.

A pair was seen on a lake at Doodinka, lat. 69° N. (about).

+78. MERGUS SERRATOR. Merganser.

Scarce.

79. LAGOPUS RUPESTRIS. Rock-Ptarmigan.

We often saw Ptarmigan, mostly wild single birds, while on the river, and in flocks on the sledge journey homeward, but whether they were *L. rupestris* or *L. albus* I cannot say. The only two obtained (killed near Golchika) were *L. rupestris*. We found no eggs.

80. TETRAO TETRIX. Black Grouse.

Numerous on the journey to Yeniscisk, but I saw only one, on the Koorayika River, after leaving that town.

+81. CREX PRATENSIS. Land-Rail.

Corn-Crakes were heard only at Yeniscisk for the first time on June 3rd.

82. *GRUS COMMUNIS*. Crane.

Cranes were seen migrating north at Yeniseisk, and one was stalked near there but not obtained, although knocked over by Hill.

+83. *CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS*. Golden Plover.

Not observed during migration at Yeniseisk, but fairly plentiful on the tundra, where eggs were obtained.

+84. *CHARADRIUS FULVUS*. Eastern Golden Plover.

More numerous than the preceding; passes through Yeniseisk on migration. The difference in their call makes it quite easy to distinguish them from our bird (*C. pluvialis*) when searching for eggs. These are of a paler ground-colour than those of either *C. pluvialis* or *Squatarola helvetica*, and measure 1.96 in. to 2.04 in. by 1.33 in.

+85. *SQUATAROLA HELVETICA*. Grey Plover.

Somewhat unexpectedly (since Seebohm had not reported them from these parts) we came across Grey Plovers nesting near Golchika, and, after considerable trouble and annoyance from the inevitable mosquito, we succeeded in watching four birds on to their nests, which contained four, four, four, and one egg and two young in down just hatched, respectively. The eggs measure 2.05 in. by 1.47 in.

+86. *ÆGIALITIS HIATICULA*. Ringed Plover.

Common on the stony parts of the high-lying tundra.

+87. *EUDROMIAS MORINELLUS*. Dotterel.

Only met with in small flocks on one of the islands about 72° N.

+88. *STREPSILAS INTERPRES*. Turnstone.

Sibiriakoff Island (lat. 72° 30' N.) was the first place where we secured a Turnstone, but we afterwards saw one or two at Golchika. No nests were found, as this place is apparently too far south for them.

+89. *HÆMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS*. Oyster-catcher.

Only one pair seen on the third day after leaving Yeniseisk.

90. PHALAROPUS HYPERBOREUS. Red-necked Phalarope.

Very numerous, especially at Golchika, where eggs and young in down were taken.

91. PHALAROPUS FULICARIUS. Grey Phalarope.

We had not expected to find these birds, as they were not observed by Scebohm, and still less to discover a nest with four eggs at Golchika. These are somewhat larger than those of *P. hyperboreus*, measuring 1.26 in. by .89 in. The male was shot from the nest.

92. GALLINAGO MAJOR. Double Snipe.

Certain swampy places in the forest seemed full of these Snipes, but only two clutches of their handsome eggs were found, both in dry places among the trees.

+93. GALLINAGO CÆLESTIS. Common Snipe.

Not so common as the preceding.

94. GALLINAGO STENURA. Pin-tailed Snipe.

I shot a bird (female), apparently from her nest, as she fluttered over the ground before me, but I failed to find the nest after a careful search.

+ 95. TRINGA ALPINA. Dunlin.

Not seen south of lat. 71° N., where young in down just hatched were found. Numerous, and breeding at Golchika, but we were too late for eggs.

96. TRINGA MINUTA. Little Stint.

Passes through Yeniseisk on the spring migration; did not occur again till lat. 71° N. was reached; here young in down were captured. Eggs and more downy young were afterwards found at Golchika, where the birds were fairly numerous and extremely tame. The eggs we obtained differed a good deal from those of the following species, being of a much darker buff ground-colour and slightly smaller (1.21 in. by .81 in.). Two females were shot from their nests.

97. TRINGA TEMMINCKI. Temminck's Stint.

Breeds further south than *T. minuta*, and is more numerous. It did not appear to pass Yeniseisk in the spring.

Many nests were taken, chiefly in open spaces not far from the river. Two males and one female were shot from their eggs.

†98. *TRINGA SUBARQUATA*. Curlew-Sandpiper.

If it had not been for the kindness of Professor Vilkitski, who invited us to accompany the expedition to Cape Matte Sale, I should not have been able to add this interesting bird to my list, as it was only when we reached lat. 72° 30' N. that we obtained specimens, which showed hardly any traces of summer plumage, early in August.

†99. *MACHETES PUGNAX*. Ruff.

Common, particularly at Golchika.

†100. *CALIDRIS ARENARIA*. Sanderling.

Not observed south of Golchika, but fairly plentiful further north.

101. *TOTANUS HYPOLEUCUS*. Common Sandpiper.

Several seen at Yeniscisk, and a good many at one place a few days' journey down the river.

†102. *TOTANUS OCHROPUS*. Green Sandpiper.

Four specimens were procured at Yeniscisk, but neither birds nor eggs were seen afterwards.

103. *TOTANUS GLAREOLA*. Wood-Sandpiper.

It has been generally supposed that the Green Sandpiper stands alone in deviating from the nesting-habits of other Waders; but I am afraid I have spoilt its reputation, as, out of five nests of the Wood-Sandpiper found, only one was in its usual position, on the ground. There could be no doubt about one of them, as I shot the bird while sitting on its eggs in an old Fieldfare's nest, and luckily did not break the eggs. I can only imagine that it departs from its usual habit owing to the abundance of old nests available. All the birds shot from their nests were males.

104. *TOTANUS FUSCUS*. Spotted Redshank.

An immature one was shot by Hill at Golchika.

105. *TOTANUS CANESCENS*. Greenshank.

Only one (female) was seen and shot by me near the Tungooska river.

106. *TEREKIA CINEREA*. Terek Sandpiper.

By far the noisiest as well as the commonest of the Sandpipers. We found numerous nests, and could have taken many more eggs if we had wished. The birds seemed to prefer dry nesting-grounds in the forest, and did not extend north much beyond the limit of trees. They roost at night on boughs overhanging the water of the lakes. The bird shot from its nest was in every case the male.

107. *LIMOSA LAPPONICA*. Bar-tailed Godwit.

A bird in full summer plumage, picked up dead at Toorukhansk, first gave us hopes of coming across these birds breeding on the Yenisei, and we subsequently found them fairly plentiful between lat. 69° N. and 72° N., no two pairs occupying the same district while nesting. The nest is extremely difficult to find, being only a slight hollow on a vast expanse of high-lying tundra. Both birds take part in the incubation of the four eggs, but I have found the male on the nest on three out of four occasions on which I have been near a nest. One bird sits very close, while the other meets the intruder at least a mile from the nest, and never leaves him till he is well clear of the neighbourhood, keeping up an incessant screaming, both when standing on the ground and when flying round. The nests were found on June 27th and July 3rd, and were in each case in the vicinity of one belonging to a pair of Buffon's Skuas. It is impossible to watch Godwits to their nests like one can Grey Plovers, as in the latter case the sitting bird instantly leaves the nest on the appearance of a stranger, and can be watched till it returns, but the sitting Godwit sticks to its eggs till it can be almost caught in the hand, well knowing that in the resemblance of its back to the surroundings lies its best chance of escaping observation. This Godwit, like many other Waders, occasionally perches upon tree-stumps. Our eggs measure 2.06 in. by 1.5 in.

+108. NUMENIUS ARQUATA. Curlew.

At Yeniseisk two birds flew over which appeared to be Curlews.

+109. STERNA MACRURA. Arctic Tern.

Seen at Yeniseisk and at various places above the forest limit. On one occasion I shot a Tern very much resembling the Arctic Tern, but with a black bill; it unfortunately fell in a lake full of weeds. It did not appear to be an immature bird.

+110. PAGOPHILA EBURNEA. Ivory Gull.

Not observed on the Yenisei, but at the eastern entrance to the Ugor Straits several were to be seen fishing in the patches of open water amongst the ice. All were immature birds, more or less spotted on the back and wings.

+111. LARUS CANUS. Common Gull.

The only Gull observed in the forest district, where it sometimes perches upon the tops of dead trees. One was shot having a plain yellow beak without the greenish base.

112. LARUS FUSCUS. Lesser Black-backed Gull.

One immature bird (probably in the second year's plumage) was shot at Golchika [identified, H. S.].

+113. LARUS AFFINIS. Siberian Herring-Gull.

This species, in my humble opinion, should rather be called the Siberian Lesser Black-backed Gull, as it more nearly resembles *L. fuscus* than *L. argentatus*. It is by far the commonest Gull on the lower reaches of the river, nesting in colonies, mostly on small grassy islands in lakes, occasionally on dry ridges in swampy ground. We obtained a good series of their eggs, which varied considerably, and also specimens in various stages of plumage, from the young in down to the mature bird. The eggs measure: 2.66 to 3 in. by 1.8 to 2.05 in.

+114. LARUS MARINUS. Greater Black-backed Gull.

While steaming north in the s.s. 'Oftsin,' from Golchika, I saw Gulls which I am confident were Greater Black-backs;

their greater size and quite black backs and wings, compared with the grey of *L. affinis*, were easily distinguishable when the two were flying round the stern of the vessel together.

+115. *LARUS GLAUCUS*. Glaucous Gull.

First seen on our trip in the s.s. 'Oftsin,' a nest and young in down being found on a small sandbank near Sibiriakoff Island; the young birds were taken on board ship by the sailors and soon became very tame. The commonest Gull in the Kara Sea.

-116. *STERCORARIUS POMATORHINUS*. Pomatorhine Skua.

It was only on one of the many islands visited that we were lucky enough to come across many of these birds nesting. Several pairs were scattered over a large marsh, which would have been quite impassable if it had not been for the ice a couple of feet below; but the possibility of discovering these rare eggs encouraged us to toil on, with the reward of finding two nests. A third nest was afterwards found by Hill on the mainland, and a good many birds were seen at Golchika later in the season. Our eggs measure from 2.35 in. to 2.65 in. by 1.79 in. to 1.86 in.

-117. *STERCORARIUS CREPIDATUS*. Richardson's Skua.

A few were seen at Golchika, and one nest found belonging to a bird of the light form, which was the only form observed.

-118. *STERCORARIUS PARASITICUS*. Buffon's Skua.

This Skua must have increased since Seeböhm's visit in 1877, as he only once mentions having seen any, whereas we found them plentiful at almost every place that we stopped at above the forest, and often found a nest, at which the birds were very bold, sometimes striking us with their wings, and when once the nest was found the parent bird would return to it if we withdrew only a few yards.

+119. *FULMARUS GLACIALIS*. Fulmar.

On our return voyage through the Kara Sea, a Fulmar appeared in lat. 74° 8' N. and long. 77° 40' E.

—120. *COLYMBUS ARCTICUS*. Black-throated Diver.

Fairly numerous; eggs were taken at Golchika only, though several pairs were seen on the lakes in the forest.

—121. *COLYMBUS SEPTENTRIONALIS*. Red-throated Diver.

Common; preferring the small lakes for nesting.

We were constantly on the look-out for *Colymbus adamsi*, but did not see one. The natives seemed to know it, and told us it nested at the lakes, far away on the tundra.

IX.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

Nos. XXXVIII. & XXXIX.

No. XXXVIII. (October 31st, 1896.)

THE thirty-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 21st of October, 1896.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present :—BOYD ALEXANDER, E. BIDWELL, J. L. BONHOTE, PHILIP CROWLEY, W. E. DE WINTON, DR. F. D. DREWITT, E. A. S. ELLIOT, JOHN GERRARD, W. GRAHAM, W. R. OGILVIE GRANT, G. H. CATON HAIGH, J. E. HARTING, OSWIN A. J. LEE, MAJOR A. P. LOYD, P. H. MUNN, R. NESHAM, C. E. PEARSON, H. J. PEARSON, F. PENROSE, T. DIGBY PIGOTT, C.B., HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treasurer*), R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*Editor*), W. B. TEGETMEIER, MAJOR HORACE TERRY, N. F. TICEHURST, H. M. WALLIS, JOHNSON WILKINSON, LIONEL P. WILLIAMS, C. A. WRIGHT.

Visitors : H. TABOR BROOKS, DR. CROSSE, J. EARDLEY HILL, R. H. HUNTER, DR. TRAQUAIR.

The Treasurer announced that the Members of the Club were now 117 in number.

Mr. FRANK PENROSE was elected on the Committee, in place of Mr. P. Crowley, who retired by rotation. Mr. P. L. SCLATER was unanimously elected Chairman, and Messrs. P.